

- DRAFT -
Saginaw Bay Phosphorus Reduction Effort
Charge to Committee
March 7, 2008

Background:

Phosphorus concentrations in Saginaw Bay water remain higher than anywhere else in Lake Huron. Generally, the Great Lakes are *phosphorus limited*, meaning that the amount of phosphorus determines the basic productivity of the lake. Higher levels of phosphorus support increased plant growth and greater productivity. This increased productivity due to phosphorus loadings from the Saginaw River and tributaries to Saginaw Bay, along with the introduction of zebra mussels, has led to development of substantial 'muck' along the Saginaw Bay shoreline that creates both an aesthetic and economic problem for area businesses and residents.

Charge:

Develop a Phosphorus Control Action Plan (P-CAP) for Saginaw Bay which effectively identifies next steps that contributing sources can take to reduce phosphorus loadings to the Bay. This effort will involve:

- **Identification and evaluation of key sources of phosphorus contributing to impacts on the Saginaw Bay.**
- **Development of recommended 'next steps' to address these sources of phosphorus** (including identification of next steps that can be taken with existing resources and identification of funding sources for other potential projects).
- **Development of a final summary of findings and recommendations.**

Potential Outcomes:

The following are potential outcomes of the effort:

- **Saginaw Bay Phosphorus Control Action Plan**
 - Evaluate and summarize phosphorus sources and inputs.
 - Develop Pollution source map for phosphorus in the Saginaw Bay coastal area.
 - Final recommendations with identified next steps to correct phosphorus problems.
 - Signed agreement by phosphorus committee representatives to actively support the next steps to a better Bay.
- **Initiation of next steps that can be taken with existing resources.**
- **Identification of potential projects for funding and/or support for the recommended next steps.**

Proposed Timeline:

March 2008 to September 2008 (6 months)